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My community, and communities everywhere, are suffering the consequences of climate change. My state is experiencing a severe drought. While there have been a few actions done, the problems are worsening at an alarming rate. Utah's drought is a dismaying predicament and should be taken care of rapidly.

More than a decade ago, the water began draining from our basins. Since then the state has only dried further. What's concerning is the fact that the drought barely made headlines after one hundred percent of the state was enveloped in the drought. The situation is taking its toll on Utah's crops, pastures/cattle, and agriculture in all. Fire susceptibility increases, and with it the smoke that keeps Utah's air polluted. The lack of rain isn't helping Utah's air quality, although the state has never had the best stats in that regard.

With the rise of the heat comes new solutions. Slow the Flow is an organization dedicated to water conservation. GWCT (Governor's Water Conservation Team) funds the educational campaign. Mainly, these organizations encourage turning off sprinklers and remind citizens of the drought. It's hard to forget considering that the record-breaking heat consumes anyone who steps outside. Despite obvious distress signs, the decline of the state continues swiftly.

There are actions to be done which Slow the Flow and the GWCT desperately teach. There are lawn signs telling people to turn off their sprinklers. Civilians everywhere are working to stop the drought, and while some hinder the cause by water hogging, a great many are determined to bring back the water. It's inspiring, really. However, while the efforts might be slowing the dwindling of the water, the problem stems from a deeper root. The truth is, droughts everywhere exist as a preview of the climate crisis to come. Conservation of water is vital at the moment, but so are bigger scale actions. Turning off sprinklers twice a week isn't denting the continuous burning of fossil fuels, the single use plastic created by shipping orders, or the massive waste of food and the trash it took to make it before being thrown away. Resolving the drought through water conservation efforts is necessary. Getting to the point where the water stays, will require this kind of action constantly. I'd hoped we wouldn't resort to asking those who care to take on all of the burden. We must get the community as a whole to respond. When the drought is over, what will we do for the ecosystem? Where can we start?

Encouraging youth and considering meaningful work options is a good place to start. We teach people about what can be done long term. From hands-on work, to number jobs, to government positions, everyone can find a place to save our water.